

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Professor Robert Rompe Reportedly  
Losing Favor with the Russians

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1. It was reported on 28 March 1951 that relations between Professor Robert Rompe, Director of the Second Institute of Physics of Humboldt University in East Berlin, and the ruling authorities have worsened considerably. Rompe was formerly Referent for universities and high schools in the Ministry of Education of the DDR. For more than a year now, he has not visited West Germany, although he had attended almost all scientific meetings there up to that time.
2. In mid-March, it was learned that Rompe had retired from political activity, at least for the time being, and that he is engaged in scientific activity exclusively.
3. [redacted] Rompe is now in disfavor with the Russians and [redacted] the main reasons for his slow but steady political decline are as follows:
  - a. His casual remarks against the approved line of politics. Although he is a convinced Communist, he has frequently criticized the Party, mostly in the form of jokes.
  - b. His growing realization that science must, sooner or later, conflict with totalitarian dogma and his lack of eagerness in following the party line with regard to scientific problems. In this respect, [redacted] Rompe was ordered to lecture on science and Marxian dialectics for circles of intellectuals, [redacted] he did so without conviction and avoided any [redacted] of the theme since he realized the hopeless scientific stand he would have to take in such discussions.
  - c. His selection of a staff of collaborators and students in the Second Institute of Physics according to their scientific ability rather than according to the principles of the Party program in order to create a scientific rather than a political atmosphere in the Institute.
  - d. His past and present unpopularity with the officials of the Ministry of Education, who have come to suspect him because of his frequent unorthodox remarks. His only friend in the Ministry of Education has been Minister Wandel.

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